

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 and 3 are amended. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,640,178 to Endo et al.; and claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Endo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,856,233 to Tsukada et al. (Tsukada). As claim 2 is canceled the rejection of that claim is moot. The rejection of claims 1 and 3 is respectfully traversed.

Endo fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended. For example, Endo fails to disclose or suggest a pointing device, comprising a sensor substrate having a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface; a stick member including a base part adhered to the first surface of the sensor substrate; a plurality of strain sensors for detecting an operating state of the stick member, the strain sensors being provided on the second surface of the sensor substrate at positions where a part of each strain sensor overlaps with a lower surface of the base part of the stick member; and trimmable chip resistors disposed on the sensor substrate where strain is produced, each trimmable chip resistor being connected in series with each strain sensor; or the similar features recited in amended claim 3.

Endo relates to a pointing device which is used to move a pointer or cursor on a display of a computer to an arbitrary position on a display screen (col. 1, lines 4-7). In Endo, the pointing device includes a manipulating part 57 having a support, or base, 57b. A substrate 51 having strain gages 52-55 disposed therein, is sandwiched between the base 57b and the support 58 (see Fig. 13 and accompanying text of the specification of Endo). Endo also discloses resistors 41, 42 as part of a signal processing circuit 40. Strain gage patterns 3-1 and 3-2 and resistance reference patterns 39-1 and 39-2 are shown as part of the signal processing circuit 40 in Fig. 10 (col. 7, line 59 - col. 8, line 8).

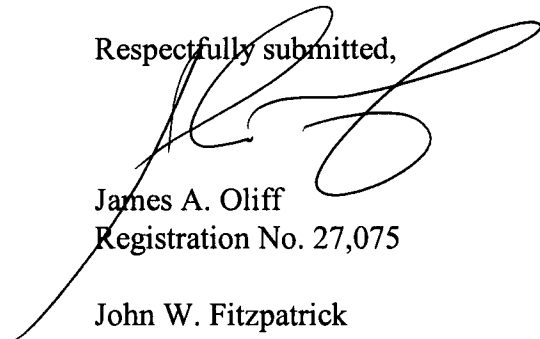
However, the resistors 41, 42 of Endo are not disclosed as being disposed on the sensor substrate where strain is produced. Rather, Endo specifically teaches away from such a location on the sensor substrate for the resistors 41, 42. For example, Endo specifically discloses that the reference resistors are provided at portions of the substrate at which no strain is likely to be introduced (see col. 15, lines 24-28). As Endo specifically teaches away from the structural arrangement of the pointing device as recited in the rejected claims, Endo does not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the amended claims.

Moreover, although Tsukada discloses trimmable chip resistors, there is no teaching or suggestion in Tsukada of using trimmable chip resistors as recited in the rejected claims. Additionally, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tsukada of the structural relationship of the features as recited in the rejected claims. Thus, even were Tsukada combined with Endo, the combination of references fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims as amended.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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